

## ILICA 2001 Expo Demonstrates Conservation Development

*By: Jill Creamean, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, Champaign State Office*

In rapidly growing communities, conservation efforts today often focus on planning "Conservation Developments," that preserve open space, agriculturally productive lands, and wildlife habitat. As East Peoria continues to grow, Carol and Charlie Blye are planning for future development on the 300-acre Blye/Keil Farm to protect the land and offer future residents harmony between people and nature by establishing environmentally sound infrastructure before any development occurs.

The Blye/Keil Farm and the adjacent Illinois Central College will be the site for the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA) Conservation Expo this August 28-30<sup>th</sup>. This year's event includes the traditional tours, demonstrations, and exhibits of conservation practices on agricultural land, such as the installation of windbreaks, terraces, buffers, and wetlands for the reduction of soil erosion, the improvement of water quality, and the enhancement of agricultural operations. New this year, however, is a demonstration of how these measures work both on the farm *and* in a residential setting. Conservation practices installed for the Expo will not only provide agricultural and environmental benefits while the land is farmed, but will also cross over into sound community planning when the land is developed for residential purposes.

A portion of the Blye/Keil Farm has been in Carol's family, the Keil family, since the time of Martin Van Buren's presidency in 1837. Previously, the family raised horses, sheep, pigs, and chickens as well as over 60 registered Holsteins, which were milked in one of the area's first dairy parlors.

"My best memories were of the large green pastures, grass-lined creeks, orchards, and a variety of trees—walnut, hickory, oak, sassafras and others. In fact, the farm was named "Elm Hollow Farm" because of all the elms," remembers Carol.

Over the years, the farm took on a different look. The animals and green pastures were gone and only the row crops remained. Because of the sloping land and numerous creeks and wooded areas cutting through the parcel, however, the land was never

considered prime for farming. Problems with soil erosion and sedimentation in ditches and streams became a concern.

With conservation issues at hand as well as increased development on the surrounding land—a commercial area, golf course, community college, nursing home, senior resident facility, and many private homes—the Blye's gave thought to the eventual development of their property as well.

### Development Meets Conservation

Carol and Charlie, a retired architect, envisioned homesteads surrounded by an abundance of green space, in keeping with the natural beauty of the family home. Initially, the Blye's had little information with which to begin this sort of project. They did, however, have experience with local resource planning with Mr. Blye's work with groups like the Heartland Water Resources Council, the Riverfront Action Forum, and the Tri-County Land Use Advisory Committee, not-for-profit groups that addresses sedimentation and water quality issues with the Peoria Lakes and the Illinois River. Carol and Charlie recognized that the decisions they made for their property could make a difference with local resources issues.

While travelling around the country in their RV, the couple began to notice a new style of residential development with wooded areas, open commons, and cluster homes all coexisting with agricultural land. Interested in the environmental, social, and economic benefits of conservation development, the Blye's further educated themselves on the subject by attending ILICA Expositions, visiting developments around the state, and attending conferences.

Then, Carol and Charlie heard conservation author Randall Arendt speak at a Peoria, IL conference sponsored by the Natural Resources and Your Development Taskforce. Arendt discussed concepts like open space zoning, which often preserves 30% of open space to reduce impervious surfaces, protect wildlife habitats, create scenic vistas, and preserve the natural beauty of the landscape. The Blye's sought Arendt's perspective on their project, and he visited the farm. Arendt worked closely with the couple, and together they explored the alternatives. Arendt created a plan to ensure the environmental integrity of the development. The Blye's plan employs simple, common sense ideas in the layout of home sites. Homes will be arranged in a manner that reduces the area needed for roads and other impervious surfaces.

*(continued on page 5...)*

## Thoughts to Ponder . . .

By Bill Gradle, Illinois NRCS State Conservationist,  
Champaign, Illinois



As Summer heat swelters across Illinois this July, so too will policy debates heat up in Washington D.C. While there are a few new faces and players in the deliberations, many familiar issues and themes will continue to be on the front burner.

But unlike many of the issues and topics debated by Democrats and Republicans across the aisle, I believe that conservation and agriculture should be kept safe from partisan bias. After all, what's there to debate? Agriculture supports commodities which translates directly into exports, trade, food, and jobs. And conservation is a necessity as well. After all, our planet is a closed system composed of a finite amount of resources. At this point, I think it's safe to say that it is common knowledge that whether we live in the city or on the farm, we can either treat our soil, water, air, and plant and animal species in a manner that destroys or depletes them or we can use them in a way that preserves their use and value for the future. It's really a simple choice.

I think most Americans know where they stand on this and have made a personal choice to support the protection of our finite resources. Although the numbers are indeed shrinking, there are still farm families out there who continue to choose farming as a way of life. Even in these tough economic times, many farm families are doing everything they can to survive. And on the urban and suburban front, there are countless private landowners, homeowners, and community officials who every day strive to preserve the natural resources that make up their little piece of the planet. And then there are professionals who have built their lives and careers around the goal of instilling stewardship into others and making a difference locally and globally. There are true stewards, true conservationists out there. And there is plenty of room for more on these 'common ground' issues.

Whatever new laws, policies, or legislative initiatives come to us over the next few months and the next few years, I have to believe that what is right and what is needed will prevail. On both fronts--agriculture and conservation have made tremendous strides over the past few decades. Because we have so many people and so many allies all of whom have a strong allegiance to the principles both these issues are built upon, I feel our efforts will prevail. Our success isn't really an issue that's up for debate. It's eminent.

## This Newsletter is Online

Remember! This newsletter is available online at [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov). Click on "News" and then on the purple button for "Newsletters". If you currently receive this resource through the mail, and would prefer to read it from our homepage, please let us know so that we can save on printing and mailing costs. Thanks!

## Events, Workshops, Meetings, Conferences . . .

**Managing River Flows for Biodiversity Conference**, July 30 - August 2, 2001, Fort Collins, CO. For more details call Nicole Rousmaniere at 720/406-7740 or visit <http://www.freshwaters.org/conference>

**21<sup>st</sup> U.S. Society of Dams Annual Meeting and Lecture**, July 3 - August 3, 2001, Denver, CO. Call 303/628-5430 or visit <http://www.usdams.org/01amprep.html>

**Ephemeral Wetlands Conference**, August 23 -24, 2001, Chicago, IL. Call Jennifer at 630/428-4500 for more information.

**Governor's Conference on Management Illinois River Systems**, October 2 - 4, 2001, Peoria, IL. Call Mike at 309/637-5253 for details.

**National Arbor Day Foundation's Fourth National Conference on "The Practice of Restoring Native Ecosystems,"** November 6 -7, 2001. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE.

**Farming On the Edge: Conservation, Communities, and Commerce**, November 12 - 14, 2001, Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL. Call Eileen at 413/586-9332 for registration and program information.

**September 29, 2001--National Public Lands Day!** The perfect day to get volunteers together to work on watershed or ecosystem projects in YOUR local community! Start planning today!

**International Erosion Control Association 33rd Annual Conference & Expo**, February 25 - March 1, 2002, Orlando, Florida. For more information, visit [www.ieca.org](http://www.ieca.org) or call (970) 879-8563.



## Conservation Terminology

**Land Use Planning**--Decision-making process to determine present and future uses of land. The resulting plan is the key element of a comprehensive plan describing recommended location and intensity of development of public and private land uses, such as residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and agricultural.

### **NRCS Directory**

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Visit NRCS' Internet Homepage at:  
<http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov>

To contact your local County NRCS office, look in the phone book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture or the NRCS website.

**Chicago Partnership in Resource Conservation**  
Tom Dilley, NRCS Community Planner  
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77 W. Jackson St.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
PH: (312) 353-2473/FX: (312) 353-0117

**East St. Louis Partnership in Resource Conservation**  
Rena Cheeseboro, NRCS Community Planner  
100 N. 8th St.  
East St. Louis, IL 62201  
PH: (618) 271-9540/FX: 271-7592

## NRCS Profile: Roger Windhorn, Resource Soil Scientist

Roger Windhorn's first introduction to SCS was in 1970 as a science student trainee from the University of Illinois. He spent one summer in Kankakee County and another in Pike County. As Roger remembers it, he went out one afternoon with a couple of soil scientists and on the way back to the office he heard himself say, "Well I know one thing I don't want to be and that's a soil scientist!"

Eventually Roger ate those words. But what brought him back around? As with many conservationists, whose futures and careers seem to hinge on one fateful moment or event, Roger's fate with soil was sealed after a field trip with U of I instructor Burt Ray who was teaching Soils 301 on Soil Genesis and Classification. "We went to southern Illinois and pulled cores for three days," explains Roger. "On the four hour trip home, we were caught in a downpour. All the tags, data, and soil series information we needed to distinguish all 25 core samples were destroyed—there was no way to tell what was what. We had no data for our final reports." And then long-time soil guru Burt Ray stepped up and using his experience and talents as a true scientist, Ray quickly identified, sorted, and reclassified all 25 cores right before Roger's eyes. "I was amazed," says Roger. "That's when I realized there was more to this than I thought. I wanted to know more about soils." The rest is history.

"I'd already started full-time with SCS as a Soil Conservationist, but after my epiphany with Dr. Ray, I switched over as a Soil Scientist," explains Roger. He first worked in Cook and DuPage Counties out of an office at the Morton Arboretum. After receiving a Masters degree in Agronomy-Pedology & Soils in 1977, Roger became the Survey Leader in Knox and then DeWitt County. In 1985 he moved on to McLean County and then to the State Office in 1992.

Roger's current role is two-fold—he acts as a resource soil scientist and also performs inventories for soil sediment and erosion control projects for the Planning Team. Soil is at the center of both functions, which is right where Roger likes it. By performing inventories for watershed planning efforts, Roger helps communities assess current conditions of erosion and sediment issues which is crucial for planning, obtaining benchmark data, and prioritizing concerns for long-range plans. "Gathering soils and erosion data for watersheds also helps us gain a larger picture of statewide concerns and trends," adds Roger.

In addition to gathering data and inventory work, Roger has a commitment to educate young people on the importance of soil. He regularly volunteers to work with students at the annual EnviroThon, Earth Day events, teacher workshops, and training sessions. "With the use of GIS, the demand for soils data layers continues to rise. I'm concerned we won't have enough soil scientists on board to gather and interpret the data to meet those demands," he explains. That's why every time he works with a group of students Roger pushes the marvels of soil science. "If just one kid out of every 80 remembers something I said about soil, it just may drive them into their own pursuit of the science." So while most just dig holes, Roger is digging holes and planting seeds for the future.

## Conservation Concepts...



### ...Developing Conservation Goals & Policies for Local Land Use Plans....

*By Keith Eichorst, NRCS Community Planner, Plainfield, IL*

Developing adequate conservation goals & policies is a delicate process combining individual citizen needs with community needs. For sustainable communities, local governments need to include adequate conservation goals & policies in their land use plans. These goals and policies should form the basis of actions in carrying out other initiatives. As a minimum, goals & policies should be developed and stated for the following resource concerns:

1. soil erosion, sediment control & hydric soils
2. wetlands
3. floodplains
4. storm water detention
5. wildlife habitat areas
6. landscaping/conservation design
7. tree preservation
8. farmland preservation
9. steep slopes & geological features
10. energy conservation
11. impervious surface coverage
12. open space and greenways

In addressing these resource issues, the question is what the community's standards will be with regard to these goals and policies. Suggestions are available from numerous sources. Once these are reviewed, you can determine if they can be tailored to local conditions. Here are some examples of goals and policies that could be used to address a concern, such as farmland preservation:

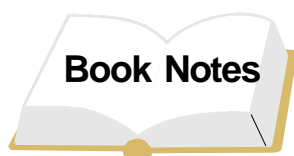
#### **Goals:**

1. Preserve farmland for present and future generations.
2. Maintain farmland as productive open space.

#### **Policies:**

1. Identify agricultural areas on a map where farmland preservation policies may be implemented.
2. Incorporate agricultural zoning districts into municipal and other zoning ordinances.
3. Limit non-farm residential development to one home per forty acres, with lot sizes of 1-2 acres.
4. Initiate Purchase or Transfer of Development Rights Programs in agricultural areas.
5. Enact Right-to-farm laws that exempt normal farming operations from nuisance law suits.
6. Implement tax programs where development is encouraged to locate on land supported by existing public services, and impose special upzoning fees on development in agricultural areas.





**"Response to Land Degradation"**-- Published May 2001 by Science Publishers, Inc., Enfield, New Hampshire, USA. This book provides a coherent view of

the current situation concerning land degradation and the human response to the problem. The world population has passed 6 billion people and will continue to rise at the annual rate of around 80 million for the next two decades before the rate declines. The increased population has two direct impacts upon the land: people require a land surface upon which to live as is reflected in the rapid urban expansion seen worldwide, and at the same time people require land for food production. It is generally recognized that technological solutions alone cannot solve the problems of land degradation. The book also discusses the role of land use and land management policies, programs, institutional innovations and economic incentives for the control and prevention of land degradation. A wide range of readers--those concerned with land management such as a farmer, landowner, economist, banker, politician, sociologist, soil scientist, environmental scientist or geographer will find it valuable.

**"The DNA of your community is what is in the zoning and regulations...these will determine what your community looks like when it grows up."**

**--Randall Arendt**

Illinois is inches away from having an *official State Soil*!! Keep an eye on the NRCS homepage for details on this landmark event!

Trivia: How many other U.S. states have designated a state soil? (Answer at the bottom of column 2...)

## Had a Change of Heart?

If you are currently on our mailing list but no longer want to receive this newsletter, please let us know. Current budget restraints require NRCS to cut costs wherever possible. Please call Kent at (815) 577-3597 to be removed from our list of subscribers. Thanks!



**Would you like to receive *Conservation and Your Community*? Provide us the information below to get on our mailing list!**

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Call or send information to Natural Resources Conservation Service, 313 W. Naperville Road, Plainfield, IL 60544 c/o Kent Sims. PH: (815) 577-3597/FX: (815) 577-3608.

## Phase II Stormwater Regulations Are Coming--Are YOU Prepared?

(Taken from IECA website)



### Phase II: How to Select, Install and Inspect Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices for NPDES Storm Water Permit Compliance

Please Note: Phase II is a broad program that covers three target areas: Municipal, Industrial, Construction. This course covers federal EPA's Phase II storm water regulations for construction only.

#### Why you can't miss this course!

- Learn the regulatory basis for erosion and sediment control, including the requirements for a comprehensive Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Master a systems approach to erosion and sediment control planning, implementation and operation.
- Discover a ten-step process for designing an effective erosion and sediment control plan.
- Learn the proper procedures for obtaining coverage under an NPDES construction permit.
- Walk away with current menu of best management practices (BMPs). Learn where to use them and how they work.
- Get information on the typical costs for materials, methods, installation and maintenance of current BMPs.
- Discover a method for selecting which BMP, or system of BMPs, is appropriate for your site conditions.
- Incorporate operation and maintenance of all BMPs as part of your erosion and sediment control planning & implementation.
- Learn what to look for as an inspector, in both planning documents and field implementation of erosion and sediment control plans.
- Find where to go for additional and more detailed information, such as plant materials, soil testing, etc.

The course debuts this summer and will be offered to the public periodically at various locations around the US over the next two years. The web-based version of the course, developed by Advanced Online, is designed as a 3-hour course, which can be completed over a period of six weeks. "We want to meet the needs of members around the world who can benefit from this information but can't attend the classroom sessions," says Beth Ziesenis, IECA professional development director. The online versions feature short lessons, quizzes, games, surveys, and photos depicting good and bad erosion and sediment control practiced at construction sites.

Trivia Answer: 15 U.S. states have legislation declaring state soils--Al, Ak, ca, fl, ks, ky, me, ma, mi, ne, ok, sd, vt, wv, wi. All 50 states have submitted proposals. At present, both Illinois and Nevada have legislation awaiting signature.

(continued from page 1)

"We felt we could be a small part of the movement to clean up our streams, repair damage caused by erosion, enhance the wooded areas, and add water control measures to provide a better setting for homes as well as to improve the land for farming," said Carol.

### Conservation for the Farm & for the City

Because development will occur slowly and in phases, and the land will remain partially in agriculture for some time, improvements made now need to function as agricultural conservation. Seeking information and assistance, the family worked with numerous organizations and agencies including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), ILICA, Illinois Central College, Prairie Rivers RC&D, and University of Illinois Extension. "More hope for our idea came as we learned of programs and technical assistance available through agencies like the SWCD and NRCS. We found solid information on how to best conserve wooded areas, deal with water control, and maintain the clarity of the water and slow its progress into streams without causing unsightly gouges in the land," said Carol.

Through this cooperative effort, the Blye's were able to incorporate methods to use grasslands, wetlands, tree stands, and water control devices that will function as agricultural conservation now and urban conservation in the future.

"Working with the Blye's captures just what NRCS does—helping private landowners achieve both their personal objectives *and* their conservation goals," said NRCS State Conservationist Bill Gradle. "What I believe this family's dream will show us is that the science of conservation works on the land—whether that land is in the country and home to one family or in the city and home to 50 families," added Gradle.

The 2001 ILICA Expo on the Blye/Keil Farm and the Illinois Central College Horticulture area will spotlight pond establishment and wetland creation as well as the construction of terraces, wascobs, windbreaks, buffers, and grassed waterways. All have traditional value as agricultural conservation practices to manage stormwater, reduce erosion, prevent sedimentation, and create wildlife habitat but will function much the same on and near a residential development. Other exhibits will be dry hydrants, grade stabilization structures, subsurface drainage, diversion, critical area treatment, wildlife food plots, native plantings, and water and sediment control basins. Educational exhibits include Timber Stand Improvement, Using Herbs in Your Everyday Life, Restoring Bird Habitat, Pond Management, Saw Mill Demonstration, Waste Tire Removal, Exploring Prairie Habitat, Chain Saw Carving, Conservation and its Effect on Income Taxes & Estates, Landscaping for Wildlife, and more.

"We are impressed with the interest of all the people involved in cleaning up our rivers and streams, and indeed, feel better educated as to how to be better stewards of our land as a result of their work and study," said Carol Blye.

For more details on the ILICA Conservation Expo 2001 call:

ILICA	(217) 245-1616
Tazewell Co. SWCD	(309) 346-4462
Prairie Rivers RC&D	(309) 364-3979
U of I Extension	(309) 694-7501



## NRCS Partner Profiles:

### The Conservation Foundation

[www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org)

#### Some Background...

The Conservation Foundation was established in 1972 as a private, nonprofit land and watershed conservation organization dedicated to preserving open space and promoting positive environmental activities. The group's early beginnings were limited, providing assistance strictly to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Since then they have grown into more of a regional body, providing forums, information, and a voice of reason for conservation issues of all shapes and sizes. In 1997, they expanded their territory to include Kane, Kendall, and Will Counties and changed their name.

"Our organization and diverse membership is focused on education and action," says Executive Director Brook McDonald. "Basically our goal is to find good local initiatives that have what it takes to make significant environmental strides, and then help them make things happen."

#### More Recent History...

Recently, The Foundation coordinated a campaign to pass a \$75 million open space referendum in DuPage County, a \$140 million referendum to protect nearly 10,000 acres in Kane and Will Counties, worked with the Upper DuPage River Watershed plan, Big Rock Creek watershed, supported local EnviroThon teams and other classroom education projects, and facilitated action in numerous other conservation easement and wetland projects throughout the collar counties on both public and private lands.

"There are so many communities and individuals out there who want to 'do the right thing' with their land. We see our job as being the conduit--helping them get a grant, helping garner support, and hooking them up with the right technical people or agencies who can help ensure the long-term success of their ideas," explains Jennifer Hammer, Director of Watershed Protection.

"That's where our partnership with NRCS really becomes valuable--whether it's a streambank erosion issue or a wetland restoration and soils issue, I know we can call on NRCS' technical specialists and they'll make sure we're covering all the issues and applying the right solutions in the right places," says McDonald.

"Having partners like **The Conservation Foundation** right up in such a critical land area is wonderful," says NRCS State Conservationist Bill Gradle. "They are able to act as a consultant and coordinator, putting our agency's technical expertise exactly where it is needed. They make community urban conservation projects easier and more successful."

# The Third Planet: Operating Instructions

By David R. Brower, 1912 - 2000



This planet has been delivered wholly assembled and in perfect working condition, and is intended for fully automatic and trouble-free operation in orbit around its star, the Sun.

However, to ensure proper functioning, all passengers are requested to familiarize themselves fully with the following instructions. Loss or even temporary misplacement of these instructions may result in calamity. Passengers who must proceed without the benefit of these rules are likely to cause considerable damage before they can learn the proper operating procedures for themselves.

## Components-- *It is recommended that passengers become completely familiar with the following planetary components:*



**Air...**the air accompanying this planet is not replaceable. Enough has been supplied to cover the land and the water, but not very deeply. In fact, if the atmosphere were reduced to the density of water, then it would be a mere 33 feet deep. In normal use, the air is self-cleaning. It may be cleaned in part if excessively soiled. The passenger's lungs will be of help—up to a point. However, they will discover that anything they throw, spew, or dump into the air will return to them in due course. Since passengers will need to use the air, on the average, every five seconds, they should treat it accordingly.



**Water...**The water supplied with this planet isn't replaceable either. The operating water supply is very limited: if the Earth were the size of an egg, all the water on it would fit into a single drop. The water contains many creatures, almost all of which eat and may be eaten; these creatures may be eaten by human passengers. If disagreeable things are dispersed into the planet's water, however, caution should be observed, since the water creatures concentrate the disagreeable things in their tissues. If human passengers eat the water creatures, they will add disagreeable things to their diet. In general, passengers are advised not to disdain water, which is what they mostly are.



**Land...** Although the surface of the planet is varied and seems abundant, only a small amount of land is suited to growing things, and that essential part should not be misused. It is also recommended that no attempt be made to disassemble the surface too deeply inasmuch as the land is supported by a molten and very hot underlying layer that will grow little but volcanoes.



**Life...**The foregoing components help make life possible. There is only one life per passenger, and it should be treated with dignity. Instructions covering the birth, operation and maintenance, and disposal for each living entity have been thoughtfully provided. These instructions are

contained in a complex language, called the DNA code, which is not easily understood. However, this does not matter, as the instructions are fully automatic. Passengers are cautioned, however, that radiation and many dangerous chemicals can damage the instructions severely. If in any way living species are destroyed, or rendered unable to reproduce, the filling of reorders is subject to long delays.



**Fire...**This planet has been designed and fully tested at the factory for totally safe operation with fuel constantly transmitted from a remote source, the Sun, provided at absolutely no charge. The following must be observed with greatest care: the planet comes with a limited reserve fuel supply, contained in fossil deposits, which should be used only in emergencies. Use of this reserve fuel supply entails hazards, including the release of certain toxic metals, which must be kept out of the air and the food supply of living things. The risk will not be appreciable if the use of the emergency fuel is extended over the operating life of the planet. Rapid use, if sustained for only a brief period, may produce unfortunate results.

## Maintenance

The kinds of maintenance will depend upon the number and consistency of the passengers. If only a few million human passengers wish to travel at a given time, no maintenance will be required and no reservations will be necessary. The planet is self-maintaining, and the external source will provide exactly as much energy as it is needed or can be safely used. However, if a very large number of people insist on boarding at one time, serious problems will result, requiring costly solutions.

## Operation

Barring extraordinary circumstances, it is necessary only to observe the mechanism periodically and to report any irregularities to the Smithsonian Institution. However, if owing to misuse of the planet's mechanism, observations show a substantial change in the predictable patterns of sunrise and sunset, passengers should prepare to leave the vehicle.

## Emergency Repairs

If, through no responsibility of the current passengers, damage to the planet's operating mechanisms has been caused by ignorant or careless action of the previous travelers, it is best to request the Manufacturer's assistance (best obtained through prayer).

Upon close examination, this planet will be found to consist of complex and fascinating detail in design and structure. Some passengers, upon discovering these details in the past, have attempted to replicate or improve the design and structure or have even claimed to have invented them. The Manufacturer, having among other things invented the opposable thumb, may be amused by this. It is reliably reported that at this point, however, it appears to the Manufacturer that a full panoply of consequences of this thumb idea will not be without an element of unwelcome surprise.

*(Reprinted from "Land and People" magazine, Volume 13, Number 1, Spring 2001--The Trust for Public Land)*





## Construction Site Basics

(Taken from the Technical Notes of NRCS' Soil Quality Institute.)

Prevention of erosion is the best course of action. Below are some basic principles of erosion control on construction sites.

- ◆ Divide the project into smaller phases, clearing smaller areas of vegetation.
- ◆ Schedule excavation during low rainfall periods when possible.
- ◆ Fit development to the terrain.
- ◆ Excavate immediately before construction, instead of leaving soils exposed for months or years.
- ◆ Cover disturbed soils as soon as possible with vegetation or other materials (mulch) to reduce erosion potential.
- ◆ Divert water from disturbed areas.
- ◆ Control concentrated flow and runoff to reduce the volume and velocity of water from work sites and prevent the formation of rills and gullies.
- ◆ Minimize length and steepness of slopes (e.g. use bench terraces).
- ◆ Prevent sediment movement off site.
- ◆ Inspect and maintain any structural control measures.
- ◆ Where wind erosion is a concern, plan and install windbreaks.
- ◆ Avoid soil compaction by restructuring the use of trucks and heavy equipment to limited areas.
- ◆ Soils compacted by grading need to be broken up or tilled prior to vegetating or placing sod.

## Places to Visit . . .

### ILICA Conservation Expo 2001

August 28 - 30, 2001, the largest display of conservation and land improvement equipment in Central Illinois. It is coordinated by the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Tazewell County SWCD, Prairie Rivers RC&D, and University of Illinois Extension. While much of the show is dedicated to land improvement issues on agricultural land, this years show will contain a number of urban issues and concepts, especially the show highlighting **conservation subdivision design**. Don't miss it ! It's free, the tours are educational, and the weather will be beautiful (if not, scheduled rain dates are September 4-6...) Join the crowd at Illinois Central College and the Blye/Keil Farm, adjacent to ICC near the bluffs of the Illinois River on the south side of Route 24. Call (309)364-3979 for more information!



## The "Ten Commandments" of the Erosion Control Planning Process

- Step 1. Identify Issues & Concerns
- Step 2. Develop Goals & Objectives
- Step 3. Collect & Analyze Data
- Step 4. Develop Best Management Practice Selection Criteria
- Step 5. Nominate Candidate Best Management Practices
- Step 6. Screen & Select Best Management Practices
- Step 7. Develop Erosion Control Plan
- Step 8. Implement the Erosion Control Plan
- Step 9. Operate, Monitor, & Maintain the System
- Step 10. Update the Plan

## What IS "Urban"?

By: Keith Eichorst, NRCS Community Planner, Plainfield, IL

Let's look at some formal definitions of what is actually considered "urban."

### Urban:

An incorporated area (city, village) or other densely settled location with 2,500 persons or more. Urban territory can be located either inside or outside of an urban area.

### Urban Area:

One or more places plus the adjacent densely settled surrounding territory (urban fringe) that together have a minimum of 50,000 persons and have a density of at least 1,000 persons per square mile.

### Urbanized Area Central Place:

One or more central places that functions as a dominant center of each urbanized area.

### Urban Fringe:

An area with at least 1,000 persons per square mile. These areas are located adjacent to urbanized area central place(s).

### Metropolitan Statistical Area:

The concept of a large population nucleus together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of social and economic integration. Each Metropolitan Area must contain a place with either a population of 50,000 or a total Metropolitan Area population of 100,000. Metropolitan Areas may include both urban and rural areas.

### Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas:

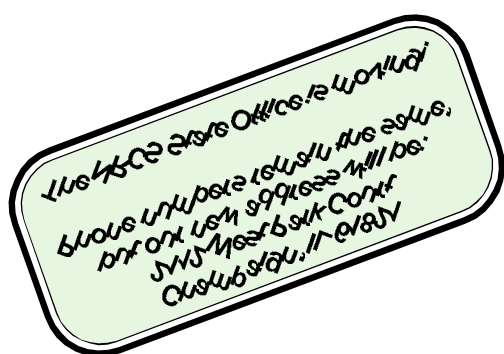
A Metropolitan Statistical Area with more than one million persons may have primary areas defined within it

### Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas:

Two or more Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas that have close ties to one another.

Reference: 1990 US Census, US Dept of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1990 CPH-5-51. Pages A-8-12.

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**Illinois NRCS  
Community Assistance  
Vision**

*To provide Illinois communities, units of government, and other clients with quality NRCS products and services that balance land development needs with natural resource conservation issues. This goal will be accomplished by a NRCS network of professional teams working together to address significant community issues*

**Newsletter  
Highlights:**

- **The Ten Commandments of Erosion Control**
- **Goal and Policy Guidance**
- **Operating Procedures for Planet Earth**